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SUBJECT: TURKEY ON PROPOSED GLOBAL MARITIME PARTNERSHIP

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¶1. We delivered reftel demarche to Turkish MFA Maritime Department Head Mehmet Poroy. Poroy told us that Turkey agrees with the principles of the Global Maritime Partnership (GMP) in general; however, he had a number of questions about how the GMP will work operationally that were not answered in the demarche. Poroy told us that Turkey is already cooperating on maritime safety and security exercises under the auspices of NATO, with neighboring countries in the Black Sea, and hopes to begin such cooperation with the EU in the Mediterranean. As an International Maritime Organization Council member they also contribute regularly to that body's collaboration.

¶2. Poroy's main concern about GMP is the lack of an administrative body or organizational structure under which partners can meet to decide where and when to cooperate. He also stressed that cooperation would need to include a real exchange of information. Poroy added that Turkey would be interested in learning more about the GMP as the concept develops.

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WILSON